

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

---

NOTE ON THE NAMES OF A FEW SOUTH  
AMERICAN MAMMALS.

BY J. A. ALLEN.

---

A recent examination of G. Fischer's 'Zoognosia' (Vol. III, 1814), shows that a number of the names currently attributed to later authors originated with Fischer; also that a few of Fischer's names for South American mammals antedate those of Wied and Schinz. Among the former may be mentioned *Felis eyra*, *Nasua rufa*, and *Nasua fusca*, usually attributed to Desmarest, 1820, but all date from Fischer 1814; also *Dasypus villosus*, attributed to Desmarest 1819, dates from Fischer 1814. *Nasua socialis* Wied, 1826, is antedated by *Nasua sociabilis* Schinz, 1821.

*Dasypus cilliatu*s Fischer, 1814, antedates *Dasypus patagonicus* Desmarest 1819. This species will consequently stand as *Zuedyus cilliatu*s (G. Fischer).

A comparison of Schinz's 'Thierreich', 1821, with Wied's 'Reise nach Brasilien', 1822, and Wied's Beiträge zur Naturgeschichte von Brasilien' (II, 1826) shows that Schinz was the first to publish a number of the names attributed by him to Wied, and since thus generally accredited. Apparently not only Schinz, Kuhl, and Temminck had access to Wied's collections but in many cases adopted and published his manuscript names several years before Wied published them himself,

so that the author for the name is, in many cases, not Wied, as usually given, but Schinz, Kuhl, or Temminck. In some cases, however, the names used by these authors differ from those adopted later by Wied; for example, *Desmodus rufus* Wied is antedated by *Rhinolophus ecaudatus* Schinz, so that the name *Desmodus rufus* Wied should give place to *Desmodus ecaudatus* (Schinz). *Felis wiedi* Schinz, 1821, antedates *Felis macroura* Wied, 1826. *Canis azarae* Wied, 1826, is also antedated by *Canis brasiliensis* Schinz, 1821, although the name *Canis brasiliensis* is attributed by Schinz to "Neuwied". Schinz also employs the name *Felis brasiliensis* (ex Wied) for the Black Jaguar, previously named *Felis nigra* by Erxleben which Wied finally did not see fit to designate by a technical name. But *Felis brasiliensis* Schinz renders untenable *Felis brasiliensis* F. Cuvier, 1828, applied to another animal.

It may be further noted in this connection that in all probability *Vespertilio villosissimus* E. Geoffroy, 1807, based on the Chauve-souris septième of Azara, will have to be adopted for the Bat named *Vespertilio bonariensis* Lesson & Garnot, 1820, and now commonly known as *Lasiurus bonariensis*, but which should stand as *Lasiurus villosissimus*. That Azara's Chauve-souris septième is not referable to the *Lasiurus cinereus* group, as stated by Mr. Thomas (Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., (7) Vol. VIII, Nov., 1901, p. 435), is evident from its small size, which barely equals that of an average example of *L. borealis*.

As is well known, Dr. J. E. Gray gives many new names to mammals in Volume V (1827) of Griffith's 'Animal Kingdom', most of which are duly cited in synonymy, but some appear to have escaped notice. Gray divided the genus *Vampyrus* into three genera, which he named *Vampyrus*, *Istiophorus*, and *Tonatia*. *Vampyrus* is restricted to *V. spectrum*; *Istiophorus* is preoccupied by Lacépède for a genus of fishes, and has been replaced by Gray's latter name *Trachops*; *Tonatiφ* has for its type and only species *V. bidens* Spix, and is thus the exact equivalent of Mr. Thomas's subgenus *Vampyressa* (1900). These divisions of *Vampyrus* established by Gray in 1827 appear to have been overlooked by later systematic writers.\*

\*Since writing the above my attention has been called to the fact that Dr. T. S. Palmer, in 1898, called attention to Gray's treatment of *Vampyrus* (cf. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. XII, 1898, p. 111).

Another name proposed by Gray in the same work (Griffith's An. King. V, 1827, 228), is *Sicista*, which has as its type and only species *Mus subtilus* Pallas, which is also the type of the later *Sminthus* Keys. & Bl., 1840. The species currently referred to *Sminthus* will thus stand as follows: (1) *Sicista subtilus* (Pallas); (2) *Sicista concolor* (Büchn); (3) *Sicista lathemi* (Thomas); (4) *Sicista flavus* (True). It also follows that the subfamily named Sminthinæ must give place to Sicistinæ.